

## SWAT TEAM ACTIVATION & DEPLOYMENT DEFINITIONS & FORMAT GUIDE

The following **DEFINITIONS** shall be used when recording SWAT Team (“Team”) activation and deployment data:

*SWAT Team* means a special unit composed of two or more law enforcement officers within a law enforcement agency trained to deal with unusually dangerous or violent situations and having special equipment and weapons, such as rifles more powerful than those carried by regular police officers.

*Agency* refers to the local governing body of the jurisdiction served by the law enforcement agency that employs the Team. If the jurisdiction served by the law enforcement agency that employs the responsible Team is a municipal corporation, the Chief Executive Officer of the jurisdiction is the agency of authority.

*Reporting requirements* for SB 447 require agencies to compile and submit their data in the described format (see below) no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the 6-month reporting period (i.e., reports for July 1 thru December 31<sup>st</sup> are due to the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center by January 15<sup>th</sup>, and reports for January 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup> are due by July 15<sup>th</sup>). This requirement shall take effect July 1, 2009 and remain effective until June 30, 2014.

*Noncompliance* refers to a law enforcement agency’s failure to comply with the reporting requirements set forth in SB 447. Should an agency fail to comply with the reporting provisions, GOCCP shall report the noncompliance to the Police Training Commission for follow-up with the agency. Upon contact, the law enforcement agency must comply within 30 days or GOCCP and the Police Training Commission shall report the noncompliance to the Governor and the Legislative Police Committee of the General Assembly.

*To meet the criteria for a reportable incident the Team must be BOTH activated AND deployed:*

- *Activated* means a Team put on notice of potential deployment for an unusually dangerous or potentially violent situation.
- *Deployment* means a Team takes SWAT-related police action. SWAT-related police action shall not include: manpower, security, executive protection, or general law enforcement duties.

*Forcible entry* refers to ANY entry during which the occupant does not consent to entry. A non-consensual entry to penetrate the premises includes any physical force whether or not actual damage to the premises occurs. Includes entries where notice has not been given to the occupants prior to entry and entries where the occupant has refused consent to enter.

*A weapon* is a firearm as defined by Annotated code of Maryland, Public Safety Article, § 5-101.

*Reporting Responsibility in Situations Involving Multiple SWAT Teams:*

- In cases where multiple Teams are deployed and multiple entries are made, each entry will be considered a single deployment and will require individual reporting.
- In situations of Assisting Teams deployed for one location, the primary entry team from that jurisdiction bears the responsibility of reporting.
- In situations of Assisting Teams deployed for multiple locations, each entry is considered a single deployment, and the primary entry team from that jurisdiction bears the responsibility of reporting.
- In situations of multi-jurisdictional Teams, the jurisdiction of occurrence bears the responsibility of reporting.

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## FORMAT GUIDE:

Data should be formatted into Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Access. Please visit [www.goccp.maryland.gov](http://www.goccp.maryland.gov) to download the Excel template (sample attached).

Please format your data according to the guidelines below and label fields in the manner indicated. To be consistent, please use lower case letters for responses.

**NOTE:** To meet the criteria for a reportable incident the Team must be BOTH activated AND deployed. Do not report if a Team is only activated.

### Description of the Fields to be Included:

1. ORI #
  - Be consistent.
  - The ORI # should correspond to the agency (i.e., the local governing body of the jurisdiction served by the law enforcement agency that employs the Team (see definition for “Agency”).
  - For multiple-team deployments and activations, please see above definition “*Reporting Responsibility in Situations Involving Multiple SWAT Teams.*”
2. Deployment Date
  - Date the Team was deployed
  - Format should be MM/DD/YYYY for each entry.
3. Authority
  - This should indicate the origin of legal authority for which the Team is deployed.
  - Responses will indicate one of the following (dropdown box):
    - Arrest warrant (aw)
    - Search warrant (sw)
    - Barricade (b)
    - Exigent Circumstances (ec)
    - Other (o)
4. Reason
  - The underlying reason for the deployment of the Team.
  - Response should indicate one of the following reasons for the deployment or activation of the Team (dropdown box):
    - Part I Crime (p1)
    - Part II Crime (p2)
    - Emergency Petition (ep)
    - Suicidal (su)
    - Other (o)
5. Forcible Entry
  - *Forcible entry* refers to ANY entry during which the occupant does not consent to entry. A non-consensual entry to penetrate the premises includes any physical force whether or not actual damage to the premises occurs. Includes entries where notice has not been given to the occupants prior to entry and entries where the occupant has refused consent to enter.
  - Responses will be either “yes” or “no” (dropdown box)

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6. Property Seized
  - Records should indicate whether the agency seized any property as a result of the Teams' activities.
  - Responses will be either "yes" or "no" (dropdown box)
7. Weapon Discharged
  - If a firearm as defined by Annotated code of Maryland, Public Safety Article, § 5-101 is discharged during deployment.
  - Responses will be either "yes" or "no" (dropdown box)
8. Arrests
  - Response should reflect the number of arrests resulting from the deployment.
9. Animal Injured
  - Indicates whether any animals were injured as a result of the deployment.
  - Responses will be either "yes" or "no" (dropdown box)
10. Animal Killed
  - Indicates whether any animals were killed as a result of the deployment.
  - Responses will be either "yes" or "no" (dropdown box)
11. Person Injured
  - Indicates whether any human beings were injured as a result of the deployment.
  - Responses will be either "yes" or "no" (dropdown box)
12. Person Killed
  - Indicates whether any human beings were killed as a result of the deployment.
  - Responses will be either "yes" or "no" (dropdown box)